

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

Minutes of June 15, 2009 Meeting

Essex Library, Highland Road

Present: Ginger Lacy (co-chair), Brian Janes (co-chair), Garry Plunkett, Dick Bixby, Susan Anderson, Martha Moore, Phil Schuyler and Martin Van Hof. Absent: Gayle Lawrence There were no guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Ginger Lacy.

Administrative

- Motion by Van Hof, second by Anderson, unanimous vote: May minutes approved.
- Treasurer's Report presented and accepted: \$671 reimbursement received from NRCS grant and credited to Open Space Stewardship Account. Balances: Open Space Appropriation: \$32.71; Fort Barton Appropriation: \$1454.92.; Open Space Stewardship: \$7,110.32; Pocassetlands Stewardship: \$2,895.00; Open Space Acquisition: \$72,366.24.

Various outstanding and ongoing needs discussed for remaining funds. Motion by Janes, second by Moore to authorize Plunkett to execute expenditures on any items discussed not to exceed the available balance. Unanimously approved.

Motion by Janes, second by VanHof, to request Town Treasurer to draft check from Open Space Acquisition Account to make annual loan repayment (second of four) of \$62,500 to RIDEM. Unanimously approved.

- Volunteer hours were documented in log being kept by Garry.

Elaine Lee Memorial/Kiosk

- Lacy and Plunkett review plans for Elaine Lee Memorial signage at Weetamoo to be created on granite panel set in concrete. Town Administrator has approved use of Open Space Stewardship Funds in advance of private donations to cover the anticipated cost. Plunkett motions, Anderson seconds to spend up to \$600 on this project. Unanimously approved.
- Lacy presented final copy for vinyl sign of seasonal, native plants for display at kiosk. Moore motions, Janes seconds to move forward with printing. (Thanks to M Moore for volunteering coupons toward the cost!). Unanimously approved.

Fort Barton

- Plunkett reported that chain fence is now up on redoubt. Also notes that phragmites is back in the vernal pool. Will plan to treat when pool dries up later in season.

Weetamoo Woods

- Plunkett reported need to mow meadow trail which he will undertake in next two weeks.
- Also, note contact from Eagle Scout regarding project of clearing near entry. Moore agrees to contact him and supervise work.
- Janes reports on conversation with Town Solicitor regarding private field plowing overlapping onto Eight Rod Way. Solicitor confirms that no adverse possession claim is possible against Town and agrees no action is necessary at this time.

Education and Grants

- Lacy reported for Lawrence on Roger Williams Volunteer Work Day to take place on 8/25/09. Volunteer coordinators need to attend orientation meeting on July 9th. Anderson agrees to attend.
- Plunkett noted that he and Lawrence recently toured Ft. Barton 3rd graders through Ft. Barton site.
- Anderson reported she has agreed to deliver lecture to the DAR on the history of Ft. Barton on April 12, 2010 at Sakonnet Bay Manor.
- Anderson reviewed her research into the "Preservation is Local" grant opportunities which can be utilized to further research and document the historic significance of Ft. Barton and the surrounding area. An important step in the process of qualifying for, and securing, grant funds is for Tiverton to become a "Preserve America Community." This requires endorsement from the Town Council. Janes motions, Moore seconds to endorse and support the request to Town Council to take whatever steps are necessary for Tiverton to become a "Preserve America Community." Unanimously approved.

- Anderson reviewed the development of her presentation on the history and significance of Ft. Barton and received suggestions and accolades on all the work completed thus far.

Properties Review

- Janes reviewed communication from Tiverton Conservation Commission regarding the Graceffa property on Bulgarmarsh Road. TOSC members voiced unanimous support for any assistance that we may offer to further develop the options for protecting that parcel.

Motion to adjourn made by Moore, second by Bixby.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

NOTE: There will be no July meeting of TOSC. The next regular meeting will take place on August 17, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Janes